

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
24 February 2005 (24.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/017581 A3

(51) International Patent Classification?: **G02B 6/00**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2004/051456

(22) International Filing Date: 13 August 2004 (13.08.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
PCT/IB03/03682 15 August 2003 (15.08.2003) IB

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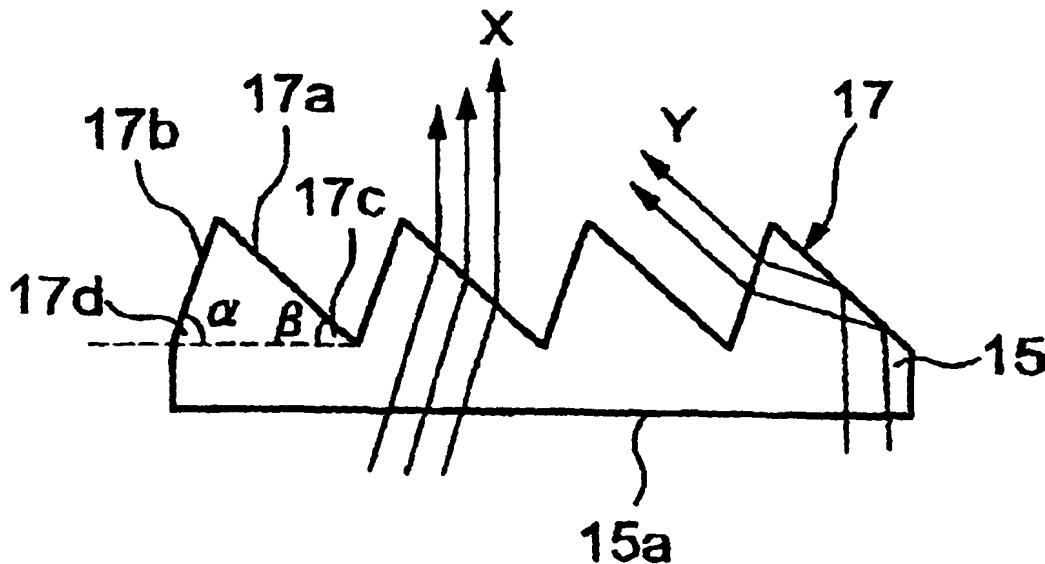
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.**

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): **ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**

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(54) Title: BACKLIGHT DEVICE



(57) Abstract: An asymmetric prism sheet 15 has a plurality of projections 17 having prism shape on its surface. The projection 17 comprises a first inclined surface 17a having a relatively gentle slope (easy slope) and a second inclined surface 17b having a relatively steep slope (steep slope). A base angle 17d on the side of the second surface 17b is α ° and a base angle 17c on the side of the first surface 17a is β °. In the case that the light enters into the asymmetric prism sheet 15, which has the above-mentioned structure, from the bottom surface 15a (light guide plate 11), the light is mainly emitted in the substantially vertical direction (a direction inclined by relatively small angle to the vertical direction) in the first inclined surface 17a (arrows X), and is mainly emitted in the inclined direction (a direction inclined by relatively large angle to the vertical direction) in the second inclined surface 17b (arrows Y).

WO 2005/017581 A3



Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

19 May 2005